



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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H.R. 1 Gives States Maximum Flexibility to Verify Results

H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind* Act, expands on President George W. Bush's original blueprint to give states even more flexibility to meet the rigorous accountability standards that are the core of the President's plan.

Annual state tests in reading and math designed by the states are the focal point of the President's proposal, which also asks that states use a sample known as NAEP (the National Assessment of Educational Progress) to verify the results of their tests. H.R. 1 expands on that approach by giving states the flexibility to use NAEP *or another assessment selected by the state* that meets widely recognized professional and technical standards.

"We're trying to make sure that states have the flexibility to do what serves their needs," House Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner told *The Washington Times*. "If states want to look at another nationally recognized test . . . we want them to be able to do so."

"I support the President 100 percent. I think the President would agree that to the extent we can give states more flexibility, we should," Boehner added. The House gives states will have the maximum flexibility in choosing how to measure student academic performance.

Message of the Day

H.R. 1 ensures that states have the maximum flexibility in determining how to measure student academic performance. The bill does not encroach on state autonomy.

- *While the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has shown to be a useful indicator of student performance, states may wish to choose other nationally recognized assessments.*
- *States should be given the leeway to choose other national standards against which to measure students' progress.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 lets states design their own tests to meet tough accountability requirements in reading and math.
- *No Child Left Behind* does not pursue accountability through national testing; H.R. 1 gives states the maximum flexibility to verify student test results using NAEP or another assessment selected by the state that meets widely recognized professional and technical standards.
- Last year, 48 states voluntarily signed up to participate in NAEP.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"[The Bush plan] adds up to a basic redirection of federal policy and major surgery for programs that mostly still follow the dogmas of the 1960s, when they were designed, never mind that they're spending tens of billions annually with no discernible results." **Chester E. Finn Jr., *New York Post*, January 25, 2001**